

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-4 and substitute therefore new claims 5-28.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system, comprising:

an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;

a coder for compressing ~~image data~~ said digital signal from ~~[[the]]~~ said A/D converter and outputting compressed image data;

an interface circuit for recording ~~[[the]]~~ said image data ~~compressed by said~~ coder in a removable recording medium ~~employed as an image file and coupled~~ connected to said interface circuit;

a memory for storing a value, said value being incremented responsive to recording of ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in said recording medium, said memory retaining said stored value even when ~~[[the]]~~ said recording medium is ~~uncoupled~~ disconnected from said interface circuit and~~[/or]]~~ replaced ~~[[with]]~~ by another recording medium;

a controller for automatically producing a file name for the image data including a number when ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data is recorded in ~~[[a]]~~ the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface circuit, said controller selectively executing one of a first file name production mode to set a number in

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[[the]] said file name to a selectable smallest one based on information recorded in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to [[said]] the interface circuit and a second file name production mode to provide a number in [[the]] said file name based on the value stored in [[said]] the memory; and

a mode selector for selecting one of said first file name production mode and said second file name production mode.

Claim 6. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

wherein said mode selector comprises a switch to select one of the first and second modes.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

wherein [[the]] said mode selector comprises a display for displaying a menu having selectable recording modes.

Claim 8. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

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wherein said controller retrieves directories having no recorded image ~~[[file]]~~ data responsive to recording of ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface circuit when executing ~~[[said]]~~ the first file name production mode to record ~~[[said]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in a directory having a smallest directory number and having no recorded image ~~[[file]]~~ data and use said smallest directory number as a number in the file name, to thereby set the number in the file name to ~~[[the]]~~ a selectable smallest one.

Claim 9. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

wherein said controller records ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in a directory ~~[[of]]~~ having a smallest directory number other than directories in which the image ~~[[files]]~~ data have been recorded or deleted responsive to recording of ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in the ~~loaded~~ connected recording medium when executing the first file name production mode, and uses the number of ~~[[this]]~~ the directory having a smallest directory number as a number in the file name, to thereby set the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number.

Claim 10. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

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wherein said controller further provides a fixed character as part of the file name when automatically producing [[a]] the file name.

Claim 11. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

wherein said controller further provides a character specific to [[said]] the system as part of [[a]] the file name when automatically producing [[a]] the file name.

Claim 12. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 5,

wherein said memory is capable of retaining stored data even when power to [[said]] the memory is turned off.

Claim 13. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 12,

wherein said memory is an EEPROM.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system, comprising:
an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;

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a coder for compressing ~~image data~~ said digital signal from said A/D converter and outputting compressed image data;

an interface circuit for recording said image data ~~compressed by said coder~~ in a recording medium releaseably ~~coupled~~ connected to said interface circuit ~~and employed as an image file~~;

a memory for storing a value, said value being incremented responsive to recording of ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in ~~[[the]]~~ said recording medium releaseably ~~coupled~~ connected to said interface circuit, said memory retaining said stored value even when said recording medium is ~~decoupled~~ disconnected from said interface circuit and exchanged for ~~a second~~ another recording medium; and

a controller for automatically producing a file name for the image data including a number when recording ~~[[an]]~~ the image ~~[[file]]~~ data in ~~[[said]]~~ the recording medium, said controller producing said number in the file name based on said value stored in ~~[[the]]~~ said memory.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 14,

wherein said controller further provides a fixed character as part of the file name ~~[[in]]~~ when automatically producing the file name.

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Claim 16. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 14,

wherein said controller further provides a character specific to ~~[[said]]~~ the system as part of the file name when automatically producing the file name.

Claim 17. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 14,

wherein said memory is capable of retaining stored data even when power to ~~[[said]]~~ the memory is turned off.

Claim 18. (Currently amended) An image manipulating system ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 17,

wherein said memory is an EEPROM.

Claim 19. (Currently amended) A method of recording image data ~~a one of a plurality of~~ in an exchangeable recording ~~mediums each capable of serving as an image file medium,~~ ~~[[each]]~~ said recording medium receiving image data and a file identifier when selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~coupling one of said plurality of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said interface;

~~periodically~~ receiving analog image data;

converting said analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name for said compressed image data
including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to receipt~~
~~of image data~~; and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file
name correspondingly in ~~[[said]]~~ the recording medium;

wherein numbers in ~~[[said]]~~ the file names are set so as to prevent use of a
same number in ~~[[said]]~~ another file name ~~regardless of which one of said plurality~~
~~of recording media is selectively coupled to said interface~~ even when the recording
medium is removed from the interface and another recording medium is connected
to the interface.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) A method of recording image data in ~~one of a~~
~~plurality~~ an exchangeable recording ~~mediums each capable of serving as an image~~
~~file medium~~, ~~[[a]]~~ said recording medium receiving image data when selectively
~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~selectively coupling one of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said
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converting received analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name for said compressed image data including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to supply of said image data;~~ and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface;

wherein one of first and second operating modes is selected, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting said number in the file name to a selectable smallest one when automatically producing the file ~~names~~ name and ~~[[a]]~~ said second mode being a second file name producing mode setting numbers in each file name to prevent use of ~~[[a]]~~ the same number in ~~[[a]]~~ another file name ~~regardless of which one of said plurality of recording mediums is selectively coupled to said interface~~ even when the recording medium is removed from the interface and another recording medium is connected to the interface.

Claim 21. (Currently amended) A method of recording ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 20, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded from ~~[[a]]~~ the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface;

selecting a directory having a smallest directory number and having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded as the directory for recording the image ~~[[file]]~~ data; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A method of recording ~~in accordance with~~ according to claim 20, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded from ~~[[a]]~~ the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface;

setting a directory of the smallest directory number other than directories in which image data have been recorded or deleted as the directory to record the image ~~[[file]]~~ data; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) A file name producing method for recording image data ~~periodically~~ provided for recording in ~~one of a plurality of~~ an

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exchangeable recording ~~mediums serving as an image file~~ medium when selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~coupling one of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said interface;

automatically producing a file name of said image data including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to receipt of image data,~~

wherein numbers in the file names are set to prevent duplicate use of said numbers even when said one recording medium is removed from ~~[[said]]~~ the interface and ~~a different one of said plurality of another~~ recording ~~mediums~~ medium is selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface.

Claim 24. (Currently amended) A file name producing method for recording image data in ~~one of a plurality of~~ an exchangeable recording ~~mediums serving as image file~~ medium, when ~~a given one of said~~ recording ~~mediums~~ medium is ~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~coupling one of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said interface;

automatically producing a file name of said image data including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to image data to be recorded;~~

wherein either one of first and second modes is selected, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number when automatically producing the file names and said second

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mode being a second file name producing mode setting the numbers in the file names to prevent duplicate use of said numbers even when said one recording medium is removed from ~~[[said]]~~ the interface and ~~a different one of a said plurality of another~~ recording ~~mediums~~ medium is selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface.

Claim 25. (Currently amended) A file name production method ~~of recording in accordance with~~ according to claim 24, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

retrieving directories having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded from the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to said interface;

selecting a directory of a smallest directory number and having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded as the directory to record the image ~~[[file]]~~ data; and

setting the number in the file name as ~~[[a]]~~ the selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A file name production method ~~of recording in accordance with~~ according to claim 24, wherein said first file name producing mode comprises:

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retrieving directories having no image ~~[[file]]~~ data recorded from the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to said interface;

selecting a directory of ~~[[the]]~~ a smallest directory number other than directories in which the image data have been recorded or deleted as the directory to record the image file; and

setting the number in the file name as a selectable smallest number by setting the directory number as the number in the file name.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) A method of recording image data in ~~a one of a plurality of an exchangeable recording mediums~~ medium ~~serving as an image file,~~ whereby ~~received analog~~ image data is recorded when ~~one of the~~ said recording ~~mediums~~ medium is selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~coupling one of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said interface;

converting analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

automatically producing a file name of said compressed image data including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to received image data;~~

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface;

storing ~~[[a]]~~ the incremented value ~~which is incremented responsive to when~~ recording ~~of an image file~~ said compressed image data in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface; and

retaining the stored value even when said one recording medium is ~~uncoupled~~ disconnected from ~~[[said]]~~ the interface and a different ~~one of said~~ plurality of recording ~~mediums~~ medium is ~~coupled~~ connected to ~~[[said]]~~ the interface, wherein the number in the file name is automatically produced based on the stored value.

Claim. 28. (Currently amended) A method of recording image data in ~~one of a~~ plurality of an exchangeable recording ~~mediums serving as an image file~~ medium, wherein image data is recorded when ~~one of the~~ said recording ~~mediums~~ medium is selectively ~~coupled~~ connected to an interface, comprising:

~~coupling one of~~ connecting said recording ~~mediums~~ medium to said interface;

converting ~~received~~ analog image data into digital image data;

compressing said digital image data;

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automatically producing a file name of said compressed image data including a number which is then automatically incremented ~~responsive to received image data;~~ and

recording said compressed image data and said automatically produced file name correspondingly in the recording medium ~~coupled~~ connected to [[said]] the interface;

wherein one of first and second modes are selectable, said first mode being a first file name producing mode setting the number in the file name to a selectable smallest number when automatically producing the file names and said second mode being a second file name producing mode, said second file name producing mode comprising:

storing a value which [[is]] represents the incremented number ~~responsive to recording of an image file in said one recording medium coupled to said interface;~~ and

retaining the stored value even when said one recording medium is ~~uncoupled~~ disconnected from the interface and another recording medium is exchanged for said first-mentioned recording medium and is ~~coupled~~ connected to said interface, wherein the number in the file name is automatically produced based on the stored value.

Claim 29. (Newly added) An image manipulating system, comprising:
an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;
a coder for compressing said digital signal and outputting compressed image data;
an interface for recording said image data in an exchangeable recording medium connected to said interface;
a memory for storing a value, said value being updated every recording of said image data in said recording medium, said memory retaining said stored value even when the recording medium is disconnected and replaced with another recording medium; and
a controller for automatically producing a file name of the image data including a number, said controller selectively executing one of a first file name production mode to set a number in said file name based on information recorded in the recording medium, and a second file name production mode to provide a number in the file name based on said value stored in said memory, and recording said image data with said file name in said recording medium.

Claim 30. (Newly added). An image manipulating system according to claim 29, further comprising:

a mode selector for selecting one of said first file name production mode and said second file name production mode.

Claim 31. (Newly added). An image manipulating system according to claim 29,

wherein said controller increments said number in the file name for use in producing another file name.

Claim 32. (Newly added). An image manipulating system, comprising:
an A/D converter for converting an analog video signal into a digital signal;
a coder for compressing said digital signal and outputting compressed image data;

an interface for recording said image data in an exchangeable recording medium connected to said interface;

a memory for storing a value, said value being updated every recording of said image data in said recording medium, said memory retaining said stored value even when the recording medium is disconnected and replaced with another recording medium; and

a controller for automatically producing a file name of the image data including a number, producing said number in said file name based on said value stored in said memory, and recording the image data with said file name in said recording medium.

Claim 33. (Newly added). An image manipulating system according to claim 32,

wherein said controller increments said number in the file name for use in producing another file name.

Claim 34. (Newly added). A method of recording image data in an exchangeable recording medium, comprising;

receiving an analog video signal;

converting said analog video signal into a digital image signal;

compressing said digital image signal and outputting compressed image data;

automatically producing a file name of said image data including a number which is then incremented; and

recording the image data with said file name in the recording medium;

wherein numbers in said file names are set to prevent use of a same number in another file name even when said recording medium is replaced with another recording medium.